



The World's First
Accordion Club
since 1912



San Francisco Accordion Club APRIL 2012

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, **April 15 @ 2 p.m.**

A Musical TRIBUTE to VALERIE KIESER

On February 13th, 2012 Valerie Kieser lost a brave and valiant battle with cancer. She was one of the greatest and most active promoters of the accordion in the Bay Area and truly was the heart and soul of the San Francisco Accordion Club, serving the Club continuously since 1995—from President to Newsletter Editor. Whenever there was a task to be done, Val was the first to volunteer. She displayed energy and enthusiasm in all that she took on, leaving others half her age in the dust.

Val knew how to live life to the fullest and she was both gracious and generous to everyone she met—there wasn't anyone who didn't become an instant friend. Val will be missed beyond measure.

We were Val's family and she was ours. As a tribute to someone who gave so much, the San Francisco Accordion Club is dedicating our regular April meeting to Val, to honor her memory and all that she has done for us. **The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble** and the **San Francisco Accordion Club Band**, two groups very dear to Val, will be performing, as well as other members and guests who have requested to pay tribute to Val. Her nephew, Jeff Trabucco, will present a slide show looking back over Val's life and there will be an opportunity for people to say a few words and share a recollection or two. In addition, rather than our usual extensive snack at break, Jeff will provide a catered meal for us after the tribute. Music will continue throughout the dinner.

There will be no admission charge to attend the tribute. To learn more about Val, see pictures or to leave your own written tribute, you may click on the link to visit Val's Memorial website. <http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/valkieser/MemorialSite.aspx>

BELLOW WINGS—Accordion Ensemble Looking for New Members

We are a small group of accordionists that like to get together and play a variety of pieces: everything from classical pieces to Yann Tiersen to Accordion Tribe to Herb Alpert, with a few traditional and expected accordion pieces. We look for pieces that are challenging and fun, sound great and if possible are actually written for accordion ensembles.

We're looking for another accordionist who is somewhat close to our musical abilities, is good at sight-reading and we get along with. We try to get together once a week in San Francisco for up to three hours to practice.

Our group consists of three intermediate players who aspire to be advanced players, with mixed results. Occasionally play for a crowd, although not often. We are doing this for fun and love of the accordion. If you're interested in joining us, contact us and tell us a little about yourself as an accordionist and what you like. Contact Jean at: (415) 377-9266 jeanbrian@earthlink.net



**Sharmanka—band members
(story on pg. 3)**



Leo Suarez—Photo Collage by Chris Knapp

My apology for not including a photo of **Annabel Ibanez** on violin. You were obscured by sound equipment in every photo.

the Editor & Photographer

Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.



Ilya Kreymer



Anastasia Kuba



Juliana Frick

March Concert—Recap



Lynn Ewing, above, played the warm-up music, choosing a few of Stas Venglevski's original compositions.

Playing to a full house were **Sharmanka** (photos on pg. 2), a fairly new, young local Russian group consisting of **Ilya Kreymer** on accordion, **Juliana Frick** on double bass, **Leo Suarez** on cello, **Annabel Ibanez** on violin, and **Anastasia Kuba** performing the vocals. **Sharmanka**—which means hurdy gurdy—performs Slavic music: Eastern European, Russian, Gypsy music. Their set included mournful love songs, a boy-meets-girl happy piece, and slow, very delicate and mournful pieces as well as some traditional Ukrainian marching songs. They closed with a song about a poor girl who in winter wanted to visit her lover and even though her shoes were in ruins, went anyway.

Stas Venglevski, and **Mischa Litvin**, our featured entertainers are both from Russia (Stas is from Moldava, and Mischa is from Belarus) and now live in Wisconsin. They are internationally acclaimed musicians and have performed with many symphonies worldwide. Stas, one of the foremost bayan players in the world, has played for our club several times before, and he was, as always an amazingly skillful musician and a delightful performer. Mischa is similarly famous on the domra, the Russian version of the mandolin, and with Stas held the crowds' attention effortlessly.

They played a Russian piece by **Popov**, then continued into the Nutcracker suite by **Tchaikovsky**. Mischa's fast runs on the domra were as astounding to watch as is Stas' work on the bayan. With a complete change of pace, the pair surprised us with a St. Patrick's day number, donning green metallic paper hats and playing the **Irish Medley: Reel, Humor of Tula, St. Anne's Reel**.

They then played *Spring Dance* by Romanian composer **Grigoras Dinicu**, featuring a broad range of Stas' performing abilities and enormous changes in pace—the use of very gentle bellows pressure to achieve a slight change in tone, and delicate vibrato effects.

We had a moment of silence to remember our four accordion musicians and friends who have recently passed away: **Tom Cardone, Valerie Kieser, Frank Marocco and Joe Smiell**. Lynn Ewing lit four candles, one for each in their memory.

Stas then played one of his recent compositions entitled: *Memories of Joe*, written for Joe Smiell. They continued with a Russian piece (in translation) *Green Grass, Blue Grass*. Stas performed solo: two waltzes entitled *April* and *July* from a suite of 12 entitled *Seasons*. Then Lynn joined him in playing *Busy Fingers*, a tango which he composed for her. Mischa returned to join Stas in a light piece entitled *Who stole the Kishka?* and then *Lara's Theme*, from the movie *Dr. Zhivago*. The pair concluded with a series, beginning with a local composer **William Susman's** work, *Zydeco Madness*, a collection of Russian folk melodies, including *How Brightly Shines the Moon*, a much appreciated *Trivial Polka*, available on one of Stas' latest CDs, and *Tritsch Tratsch Polka* by **Strauss** to which they added a series of visual gags: head turns, nods & leg kicks at appropriate times during the composition.

Those who attended were very lucky to witness and enjoy this legendary performance by two of the world's masters.



Mischa Litvin & Stas Venglevski

4

SFAC Scholarship Program

The deadline for Scholarship applications to be awarded this spring is extended to April 15. The Scholarship requirements and application forms will be available at the April meeting or by contacting Randy Hicks at hickr01@sprintmail.com or calling 510 583-1581. The application forms must be returned by the end of April to:

*Mike Zampiceni
1220 Tasman Drive,
#106 Sunnyvale, CA 94089*

From our President—Lynn Ewing

I was very fortunate to have known **Frank Marocco**, the man who was an inspiration to me as an accordionist, for 10 years. I first met him in 2002 at the Las Vegas Convention, and then got to know him better at the 1994 Silver Falls Accordion Camp where he was the guest artist. Six years ago, under the direction of Joan and Dan Grauman, he established the Frank Marocco Accordion Event in Mesa, AZ, and this became one of the highlights of the year for those of us who attended. Frank was the conductor and arranger for the orchestra, as well as giving wonderful performances in the finale concerts which wrapped up the events. He was always gracious and humble, and enjoyed playing after hours with anyone and all who were willing.

Elke Arenholz, his manager, sponsored the Frank Marocco Accordion Event European Edition in Castelfidardo, Italy last summer. Many of Frank's students and orchestra members from Mesa were able to attend and had a wonderful time playing in the international orchestra. Afterwards, just for the fun of it, Frank sat out on the hotel patio with us and played while we enjoyed drinks, laughing, listening, singing, and making requests for our favorite tunes. These times of just hanging out with him while he played informally are some of my most treasured memories. Frank loved to play. He was a man full of love for music, family and friends. He will be missed and all who knew him feel blessed that he graced our world with his artistry, warmth, and love. He was a unique talent, bringing his personal style of jazz not only to the international community, but to all who were lucky enough to know him.

The memorial service held on March 24 was a special event. His grand-daughter Chelsea DiBlasi sang, and the band included his son-in-law Joe DiBlasi on guitar, his protégé Frank Petrilli on accordion, famed vocalist Tony Galla, pianist Mark Le Vang, Violinist Bobby Bruce and Bruce Atkinson on bass. Accordionist Dart Zubis also performed. To hear an audio of the service, you can go to: www.northridgeumc.org/marocco. There is also a wonderful tribute to Frank which is performed by a group of Moldavan Accordionists, which you can find at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wE3DT7op8PE



*Frank in Las Vegas
2010-photo by Chris Knapp*

CONVENTIONS GALORE

If you are looking for something fun, interesting and accordion related to do— here are some of the Accordion Conventions and gatherings taking place.

The Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration, June 20-23 held at the Fredericksburg Hospital-ity House, Fredericksburg, VA – this year celebrating Accordion Heroes Anthony Galla-Rini and Dick Contino. phone 1-855-266-9847. Visit the Accordion Heroes 2012 Celebration @www.accordionheroes.com/EVENTS.html

The Annual American Accordionists' Association Festival, July 11-15 held at the Sheraton City Center, Baltimore, MD Guest Artist and conductor of the AAA Festival Orchestra this year will be Stas Venglevski. www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

The 72nd Annual Competition and Festival of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International

July 25-29 held at the Lisle Hyatt Hotel, Lisle (Chicago), IL. For the latest Festival details, check the ATG's <http://www.accordionists.com/atg/>

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars for the **13th annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**, September 24-27 at the Gold Coast, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.accordionstars.com

FINAL ALICE—a New Take on an Old Story *Works that include the Accordion are not being overlooked by present day symphony orchestras!*

This Accordion Event takes its place on the symphonic orchestral stage. Accordionist **Henry Doktorski** has been busy this past March performing the accordion part with both the Detroit and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras in composer **David Del Tredici's** 1976 composition *Final Alice*, under the direction of Maestro Leonard Slatkin.

Final Alice is defined as a 65 minute cantata inspired by **Lewis Carrol's** *Alice in Wonderland* and is unlike anything else. Somewhere between a symphonic work and a concert staged opera, **Final Alice** is scored for a massive orchestra, amplified soprano vocalist and a folk ensemble consisting of two soprano saxophones, mandolin, banjo AND accordion.

In a phone conversation with Mr. Doktorski, the composer had this to say about the accordion, "When I began writing my musical setting of *Alice In Wonderland* for orchestra, I wanted to include a second group of instruments which would sound completely different from a symphony orchestra; something totally UN-orchestral. After some consideration, I decided that the saxophone, mandolin, banjo and accordion would be perfect because those instruments, due to their cultural identity and distinctive tonal qualities, were rarely used with symphony orchestras."

Del Tredici continued, "Believe it or not, I actually love the accordion; to me at least, it always sounds funky in an orchestral setting. Its sound is quite unique. Early in my composing career I wrote mostly atonal works. But when I discovered the accordion I developed a desire to use its left-hand chord buttons - the major, minor, seventh and diminished buttons, in my *Alice In Wonderland* piece. This was a turning point for me: it caused me to consider using tonality in my compositions. I suppose for this then, I am indebted to the accordion for opening my eyes to the possibilities of tonality."

On his performance of *Final Alice* with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Doktorski said ... "I thoroughly enjoyed once again performing with the superb musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The accordion part was not easy; I spent close to two full weeks of continual practice to learn the 38 page part. Del Tredici likes to write virtuosic music—he doesn't coddle his musicians—and the accordion part is no exception to this rule!"

I wonder when we will hear **Final Alice** performed by our own San Francisco Symphony Orchestra?



Frank L. Marocco passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 3, 2012 at home following complications from hip revision surgery. He was in the home he loved and shared with his wife of 60 years, Anne. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Frank was born in Joliet, Illinois on January 2, 1931 to Frank and Noreen Marocco. He was the oldest of 6 children, 4 brothers and a sister. When he was seven years old, his parents enrolled him in a six-week trial program on the accordion.

He met Anne Clark when he was performing at the Normandy Club in Mishawaka, Indiana with his trio. Their eyes met, they talked all night. Their next date was in his dad's convertible sharing milkshakes and cheeseburgers. They were married 9 months later on October 20th, 1951 in Waukegan Illinois.

He began his professional career playing in clubs and hotels all over America with a trio he organized at age 18. Jazz was his first love but the opportunity to make a living playing jazz eventually brought him west to Los Angeles where he worked as a session studio musician becoming one of the most recorded accordionists in the world, playing on hundreds of movie soundtracks, TV shows and record dates. He has recorded film music with a long list of composers; John Williams, Quincy Jones, Elmer Bernstein, Michele Le Grand, Hans Zimmer, Michael Giacchino, Henry Mancini and dozens of others. He performed with Pavarotti, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and so many others. In recent years, he traveled extensively worldwide to Brazil, Italy, Russia, China, Germany and many other countries to great acclaim.

He was nominated eight years in a row for the Most Valuable Player Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (N.A.R.A.S) and won the award twice. One of the awards that meant much to him was from the Department of Defense. Frank played in Les Brown's Band and traveled with Bob Hope's Christmas tour that visited our armed forces. He was presented with a Certificate of Esteem for Patriotic Service. He loved the American Flag and honored it all his life.

Frank was soft-spoken and characterized by a humble nature and gracious heart. He leaves behind his beloved wife Anne and their three daughters: Cynthia (Al) Thoburn, Venetia (Drew) Lambo and Lisa (Joe) Diblasi. He loved his eight grandchildren: Matthew, Courtney, Lindsey, Brittany, Andrew, Christopher, Chelsea and Tori. Services were held at Northridge United Methodist Church 9650 Reseda Blvd. Northridge CA 91324 on Saturday March 24th at 11a.m. The family has requested that any donations in memory of Frank be made to: Foundation of Human Understanding P.O. Box 1000 Grants Pass OR 97528.



**The San Francisco
ACCORDION CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

under the direction of Joseph Smiell Jr.
presents a **Spring Concert**

April, 29 • 2012 @2:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2124 Brewster Ave, Redwood City, CA

\$10 donation requested
Children 12 and under free

for information: Frank Montoro
650-574-4757 or Lynn Ewing
ewinglynn@gmail.com

for the artist who appreciates quality. . . .



petosa

www.petosa.com

Seattle, WA • (206) 632-2700

OUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. There are many small tasks (and some not so small) that go into making the Club and the monthly meetings operate smoothly. Many of these tasks were graciously assumed by Val, but without Val now, the Executive Board must look to the membership to fill some of the great void left behind.

The Board has assumed as many duties as we can, but many of us also work full time jobs, run our own businesses and/or have family needs to be met and there is a limit to how much additional work we can do. What we would like to do, where feasible, is find several interested people for most tasks and rotate through that list, so more people can be involved, and no one person is over-worked.

The tasks for which we currently need help, along with a brief description of what we might expect are presented below:

At every monthly meeting we need people to perform the following tasks:

Meeting MC: The MC introduces the performers, does the drawings and announces the winners for the 50/50 raffle and door prizes and makes general announcements when the President is not in attendance.

Photographer: The photographer takes pictures of the performers and other candid shots of the guests for use in the Newsletter and to be posted on the website.

Meeting Reporter: The meeting reporter writes and submits a review of the meeting, mentioning a few of the selections performed, but focusing on interesting points about the music, the performers or the meeting itself.

Meeting Coordinator: We only need one person for the role of meeting coordinator. Their task is, armed with the lists of the people who would be willing to be MC's, Photographers and Meeting Reporters, to prepare a schedule so we have an MC, a photographer and a reporter for each monthly meeting.

The following tasks are general and probably best filled by one person:

Hospitality Coordinator: The hospitality coordinator would follow up with our performers, thanking them for their performances. (email or postal addresses will be provided). The HC would also send cards to members as directed by the Board (e.g. get well, or sympathy) and order floral arrangements when so requested by the Board.

Newsletter Reporter: The newsletter reporter works closely with the newsletter editor, preparing copy, keeps track of events that need to be reported, is on the lookout for newsworthy articles, events, etc. that are accordion related, does fact checking and investigation from time to time and accepts notices and material from other members related to events or special interest articles.

Newsletter Proof Readers: It is always helpful to have a second set of eyes – you would assist the Newsletter Editor in finding spelling or grammatical errors.

ECoordinator: The ECoordinator would be someone who is computer savvy that can post club news and information and items of special interest to the blog page on the Club's website, post upcoming accordion related events to the calendar page on the Club's website (the blog and calendar are all administered through Google). The ECoordinator would post Club meeting notices/invitations on SFGate.com and send out an email reminder of the upcoming monthly meeting to the Club distribution list on a monthly basis.

If you are willing to help or have any questions, please contact **Randy Hicks** by email at **hickr01@sprintmail.com**, or phone **510 583-1581** and leave a message and your call will be returned. Please do not wait if you are interested in helping the club out in one of these capacities, but you may also receive a call from a board member and I hope you will be able to say "yes" to one or more tasks.

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com

The Vacaville Golden State Accordion Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Court-yard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Jerry Keifer (916) 652-0836

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
David Chelini (916) 428-8764
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President
(650) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President
(415) 587-4423 accord47@gmail.com

Randall Hicks, Secretary
(510)583-1581 hickr01@sprintmail.com

Maryanne Romanowski, Treasurer
(650) 595-8105
maromanowski@yahoo.com

SFAC Directors

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549
don@nurisso.com

Scott Williamson (650) 493-3075
aswy01@gmail.com

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100.

Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

BRUCE KIRSCHNER, M.D.		1828
OPHTHALMOLOGY		EL CAMINO REAL
LASER VISION CORRECTION		SUITE 404
		BURLINGAME CA 94010
		PH: 650-692-8788
		FX: 650-692-8798
		E: KIRSCHNER@AACL.COM

a new era in accordions . . .



GIULETTI

Visit the sound of Giuletti

www.giulettiusa.com

206-632-2700

A sound for every genre of music, Classical, Jazz, Blues, Cajun, Zydeco, Musette, Ethnic and Folk . . .

CONCERTO - BORSINI - PIERMARIA

Accordions International

"Home of the Concerto"

- Italian artisan accordions
- Large Showroom
- Straps Cases, Music
- Factory Repair Facility

(801) 485-5840

1760 South 450 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
www.AccordionInfo.com
email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com



Castiglione

Accordion and Distributing Co. LLC.

JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
Warren Mi. 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050
Fax 586 755 6339

E-Mail johncast@bignet.net
internet www.castiglioneaccordions.com



Smythe's



Kimric Smythe

Accordion Center

2511 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
510-268-4084

Advertisements
Please support the businesses
which help support us.


VICTORIA
ACCORDIONS

Frank Petrilli

20654 Bahama Street
91311 Chatsworth CA - USA
Phone 818-406-2010
www.accordions.it
victoria.accordions.usa@gmail.com

THE ACCORDION APOCALYPSE REPAIR SHOP

San Francisco



415-596-5952
www.accordionapocalypse.com

Club & Musical Meeting • April 15 @ 2 p.m.

TRIBUTE to VAL KIESER

**Join us on the third sunday of the month
at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Club

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

www.sfaccordionclub.com



**FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE**

Receive your Newsletter Online!
Be Planet Friendly &
help us SAVE MONEY
sign up @:
SFACNewsletter@earthlink.net